

Remarks

The various parts of the Office Action are discussed below under similar headings.

Claims

Claims 1, 10, 13, 16, 19, 21 and 22 have been amended to clarify the invention.

Interview

On February 15, 2007, a telephone interview was conducted with the Examiner in to clarify portions of the Examiner's Office Action. During the interview, it was determined that the Examiner's objections to the drawings should be withdrawn.

The Examiner also indicated that the meaning of the phrase "non-keyboard and non-mouse USB interface" is unclear. To clarify, that phrase has been amended to read "USB interface that is neither a keyboard interface nor a mouse interface."

Also during the interview, the Examiner indicated that the meanings of the following claim limitations were unclear to the Examiner: "wherein a keyboard and mouse host is emulated to the keyboard interface and the mouse interface" and "wherein a keyboard and a mouse are emulated to the host interface". Applicant respectfully submits that "emulation" is a term of art and that one of ordinary skill in the art would readily understand. Moreover, the specification of the present application clearly explains the meaning of these limitations.

First, the detailed description of the invention explains that emulating a keyboard and mouse host to the keyboard interface and mouse interface means that it appears to the keyboard interface and the mouse interface that the keyboard interface and mouse interface are connected to a keyboard and mouse host, even if no such actual connection exists:

Because the user controller 122x is capable of emulation, the user controller 122x appears to the keyboard 104x and the mouse 106x as a USB host, such as a host 102x. (Page 7, lines 12-15).

Similarly, the description of the invention explains that emulating a keyboard and mouse to a host interface means that it appears to the host interface that the host interface is connected to a keyboard and mouse, even if no such actual connections exist:

The computer controller emulates a keyboard and mouse, such as keyboard 104x and mouse 106x, to the host keyboard and mouse interface 110x. Therefore, to the USB host 102x, the computer controller 120x appears as a USB keyboard and mouse. (Page 3, lines 29-32).

Because the computer controller 120x is capable of emulation, the computer controller 120x appears to the host 102x as a USB keyboard, such as a keyboard 104x, and a USB mouse, such as a mouse 106x. (Page 7, lines 2-5).

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the limitations “wherein a keyboard and mouse host is emulated to the keyboard interface and the mouse interface” and “wherein a keyboard and a mouse are emulated to the host interface” would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art in light of the description of the invention.

Double Patenting

The claims of the present application have been amended. In addition, the claims of U.S. Application No. 10/860,888 have also been amended. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner’s obviousness-type double patenting rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ahern et al. (EP 1 075 111) in view of King et al. (US 2003/0131127).

Applicant respectfully reiterates to the Examiner that King does not disclose a USB interface that is neither a keyboard interface nor a mouse interface. As Examiner

correctly notes, Ahern fails to disclose a peripheral switch comprising at least one USB peripheral interface. The Examiner relies on King as disclosing this limitation:

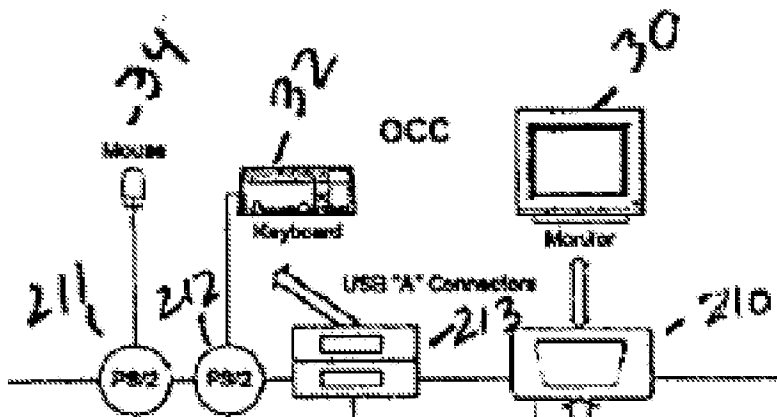
King discloses a KVM and peripheral switch device comprises a host USB peripheral interface and a master controller that is configured to switch at least one of the USB peripheral among the host interfaces (**see fig. 2 of King and paragraph 0023**).

(emphasis in original). The Examiner also again cited paragraph 0023 of King, which reads:

An OCC 22 includes a keyboard 32, monitor 30 and mouse device 34. As used herein, the term "mouse" refers to any cursor control device. The OCC **keyboard 32 and mouse 34 devices may be PS/2 devices or USB devices or a combination of both**. For example, it is possible to simultaneously attach both a PS/2 keyboard and a USB mouse. Because the USB protocol allows multiple devices to be attached to a single USB port by using a commercially available device known as a USB hub, multiple **PS/2 devices and USB devices** may be attached to a KVM unit 12.

(emphasis added).

Figure 2 of King clearly shows a video port 210, a PS/2 mouse port 211, a PS/2 keyboard port 212 and a USB keyboard and mouse port 213. The relevant portion of Figure 2 of King is provided below for the Examiner's convenience:



The port 213 is described and illustrated solely as a USB keyboard and USB mouse device port. Indeed, the arrow pointing from port 213 to the keyboard and mouse 32 and 34 removes any doubt that the USB port is designed for or even capable of any other use. There is no indication that the "USB devices" described in King can be anything other than USB keyboard and USB mouse devices.

As further evidence that King discloses only keyboard and mouse USB peripherals, King explains that it is preferable for the KVM unit 12 to receive power from the host computer 71 so that it can “provide the necessary signals emulating the presence of an attached peripheral device to the host computer 71 even when the KVM unit 12 is turned off.” Paragraph 0031. To provide emulation signals to the host computer 71, it is necessary to know the characteristics of the device being emulated. In other words, emulation can only occur when the KVM unit is configured for connection with specific type of devices, which in King are a keyboard and a mouse. One of skill in the art of peripheral switches would be familiar with the process of emulating keyboard and mouse devices to a host. There is no disclosure, however, of how a USB device that is neither a keyboard nor a mouse could be switched among host computers by the KVM unit 12. Indeed, there is no disclosure anywhere in King of the use of the KVM unit with any USB device other than a keyboard and mouse.

As amended, all of the claims of the present application include at least one USB peripheral interface that is neither a keyboard interface nor a mouse interface. It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a peripheral switch for switching keyboard and mouse interfaces as well as at least one USB peripheral interface that is neither a keyboard interface nor a mouse interface, between host interfaces.

Conclusion

It is therefore respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and an early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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